WORK ON

vin Markham Has Half Completed a Classical Poem Nearly the Length of "Paradise Lost."

Theme is the Justification f Life, Its Period Modern and Its Conclusion Optimis- \$

Has Labored Twenty Years on It, and Now Sees His Way Clear to Complete and Pub- § lish His Greatest Work.

Edwin Markham recently took the most important and significant step in his caveer. The poet of "The Man with the Hoe," realizing that his vogue has now all the marks of permanence, declared his literary independence by establishing his residence in the East-in No. 545 Third street, Brooklyn.

This also will be the first intimation to the literary world that the American poet whom Max Nordan recently compared to Milton has his own "Paradise Lost" more than half written. Even his publishers know nothing of the existence of the first half of an eple poem which Markham be-Heres to be the conception upon which his fame will rest, upon which he has labored for twenty years and which he now sees his way clear to complete and publish.

Many Offers from Publishers. Markham is overwhelmed with offers from publishers. His volume of poems now is in its eighth efficien, the last four being of 5,000 copies each. His publishers have voluntarily increased the unusually large royally which secured the right of publication. He does not attempt to write more than two short poems each month but for these he receives much more than

realized by any of his contemporaries this country.

He has refused the editorship of a new agazine whose first issue will appear on, though sarisfied that its policy and a finances are above reproach. An imprant nublisher a few days ago tempted m w h a proposition for a novel. But the policy was firm.

or was arm.

k we have to break rocks," he said,
c n do so, if necessary, "but I will
nivr a Herrary field unfamiliar to me
cest, not at present."

His Increased Income. containing "The Man with as just been published in L. Harpors, and Doubleday & Ms

New Work Is Optimistic. 'The Man with the Hoe' is the Sei He says that there is only one theme for dise Lost" and Dance in "The Divine Comedy," who attempted to justify God's attitude toward man. Markham's work will be an effort to justify life, and his sonclusion—characteristic of all his work—will be optimistle. He will show that humanity is a unit. He will show that humanity is a unit. He will show that humanity is a unit. He will point out the unifying principle, and while exhibiting the misery and sorrow of the world with all the force at his command, will show that the principle referred to uffinately must evolve universal inappiness.

He will show that life is good primarily.

6 the it is within the power of humanity

He will show that life is good primarily. In the it is within the nover of humanity to make it appear good to every individual; that heaven, hell and all conditions are the natural result of law—home being arbitrary; that the universe is built on law, and that the heart of law is love. Humanity being a unit, its present state is due to the fact that it is not yet fully horn. The present mequality in individuals is explained that wome assist the Almignty in bringing them into life, that some not only assist in their own bringing forth, but aid others, and that many, leaving all to God, lack also human assistance. The symbol of the latter class is "The Man with the Hoe."

Has Hope in His Lyrics. Mr. Markham, in this work, will not ad-here absolutely to the classical epic form. "And the still dawn went out with sandals gray"

The blank verse will be lamble pentameter. The characters are not allegorical, but real and modern. Abraham Lincoln is one type. There is a story, and while the episode are generally realistic, there will be glir ses of the "upper, the nether and the invisible worlds."

Markham is a triffe annoved by see

Invisible worlds."

Markham is a trifle annoyed by some critics who find his muse wholly didactic. He hopes his epic with its lyrical interludes will prove to the contrary. These interludes are furnished by the characters. One or two were extracted from this manuscript for his present published volume. His published poem, "A Look Into the Gulf," belongs in the greater work.

WOMAN LOCKS A POOR

BOX THIEF IN A CHURCH.

Frank Welsh Caught Trying to Rob 3 Size 8-4, usual price \$10.00, our price, Church of St. John the

Evangelist. Z2S

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Meade in the Yorkville Court yesterday. The occasion for this remark was the arraignment of Frank Welsh, of No. 787 Eiton avenue, on the charge of trying to break open and rob the poor box in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, at Fifty-fifth street and First avenue.

Mrs. Cody, the woman employed in cleaning the church, saw Welsh trying to break open the box. She locked the doors and caused his arrest. Welsh was remanded.

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